

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

3628 IFW

In re the application of Shigekazu NAGAI et al.

U.S. Serial No. 10/000,349

Filing Date: December 12, 2001 Examiner: Joyce, Willam C

Group Art Unit: 3682

Title: Actuator

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Honorable Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR § 1.56, the attached form and document(s) indicate information of which the applicant(s) has/have recently become aware which may be relevant to the above-identified application.

The information is in the form of references which have been cited in a corresponding Office Action from the German Patent Office, dated May 19, 2004, as a foreign counterpart application to the present application.

A copy of the German Office Action is enclosed, along with copies of the four (4) references cited therein. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001-0002783 is also enclosed, which is a corresponding publication to German Publication No. DE 199 03 612, along with U.S. Patent No. 6,446,520, which corresponds to German Publication No. DE 198 82 926.

The Examiner is requested to indicate consideration of this information by initialing and returning a copy of the Information Disclosure Citation form (PTO-1449) attached herewith.

37 CFR 1.97(e) Statement. Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

Signed,

Paul A. Guss

Date: August 3, 2004

This information is being submitted after issuance of a final Office Action, but before payment of the issue fee. Hence, in accordance with the 37 CFR § 1.97(e) statement above, consideration of the submitted information is proper with payment of the IDS fee, which is enclosed.

Should it be deemed that any other fees are due in connection with this or any accompanying communication, authorization is given to charge such fees to the Attorney's Deposit Account No. 07-2519.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul A. Guss

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PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

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Complete if Known

Application Number

Filing Date

December 12, 2001

First Named Inventor

Art Unit

Examiner Name

Attorney Docket Number

AUG 0 3 2004

			U. S. PATENT	DOCUMENTS	
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Document Number  Number-Kind Code <sup>2 (f known)</sup>	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevan Figures Appear
		<sup>US-</sup> 2001/0002783 A1	06-07-2001	Kajita et al.	
		<sup>US-</sup> 6,446,520 B1	09-10-2002	Nagai et al.	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS										
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages					
		Country Code <sup>3 -</sup> Number <sup>4 -</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY		Or Relevant Figures Appear	T⁵				
		JP 2000-213617	08-02-2000							
		EP 0 987 468	03-22-2000							
		DE 198 82 926	11-30-2000	<del></del>						
		DE 199 03 612	08-12-1999							

Examiner	Date	
Signature	Considered	

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

<sup>\*</sup>EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at <a href="https://www.uspto.gov">www.uspto.gov</a> or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.